

CLAIMS

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1. A method for creating a report or layout for data stored in a database, said method comprising:

5 (a) performing an interview sequence to obtain organization information, the organization information including at least a list of fields and at least one summary field for the report or layout, the at least one summary field being associated with one of the fields in the list of fields; and

10 (b) automatically creating the report or layout based on the interview sequence.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the summary field is a subtotal or a grand total of the data in the associated fields.

15 3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the summary field provides one of a total, count, average, minimum, and maximum of the data for the field associated with the summary field.

20 4. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the list of fields is an ordered list or fields.

5. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the organization information further includes a style for the layout or report.

25 6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the organization information further includes a style for the layout or report.

7. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the style for the layout or report identifies particular characteristics for the layout or report including a plurality of background color, text size, text font, text style, and other colors.

5 8. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the organization information further includes header or footer information for the layout or report, the header or footer information including at least one of a logo and custom text.

9. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method produces a report,
10 and

wherein the organization information further includes a category that identifies the field on which the report is organized.

10. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the organization information
15 further includes a plurality of categories that are ordered, and the categories identify the fields and a hierarchy on which the report is organized.

11. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the summary field is a subtotal
or a grand total of the data in the associated fields.

20 12. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the summary field provides one of a total, count, average, minimum, and maximum of the data for the field associated with the summary field.

25 13. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein said method produces a report, and

wherein said method further comprises: (c) automatically creating a script to run the report.

14. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method produces a report,
and

wherein said method further comprises: (c) automatically creating a script
5 to run the report.

15. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the organization information
further includes sort fields for the report or layout.

10 16. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the report or layout has a
plurality of parts, the parts including header, grand total, summary, body, and
footer.

15 ~~17.~~ A method for creating a report layout for data stored in a database, said
method comprising:

(a) performing an interview sequence to obtain organization information,
the organization information including at least a list of fields and at least one
summary field for the report layout, the at least one summary field being
associated with one of the fields in the list of fields, the report layout including a
20 plurality of parts including a header area, a grand total area, a summary area, a
body area, and a footer area; and

(b) automatically creating the report layout based on the interview
sequence, said creating includes placing the summary field in at least one of the
grand total area and the summary area, and placing the fields in the list of fields
25 in the body area.

18. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein when the summary field is a
subtotal, said creating (b) places the subtotal in the summary area.

19. A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the subtotal is placed in the summary area at a position corresponding to the position as the associated one of the fields placed in the body.

5 20. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the subtotal is placed in the summary area in the same column location in the report layout as the one of the fields placed in the body that corresponds thereto.

21. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein when the summary field is a
10 grand total summary field, said creating (b) places the grand total in the grand total area.

22. A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the grand total summary field is placed in the grand total area at a position corresponding to the position as the
15 associated one of the fields placed in the body.

23. A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the grand total summary field is placed in the grand total area in the same column location in the report layout as the one of the fields placed in the body that corresponds thereto.

20 24. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein said method produces a report for the data using the report layout, and

wherein said method further comprises: (c) automatically creating a script to run the report.

25 25. A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the script is requested during the interview sequence.

26. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the organization information further includes sort fields for the report or layout.

27. A method as recited in claim 26, wherein said method further comprises::

5 (c) producing a report for the data using the report layout.

28. A method as recited in claim 27, wherein said producing (c) sorts the data in accordance with the sort fields for the report.

10 29. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the organization information further includes a theme selection for the report layout.

30. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the organizational information includes at least first and second of summary fields, the first summary field is a
15 grand total summary field and the second summary field is summary field, and

wherein said creating (b) of the report layout comprises:

(b1) placing the first summary field in the grand total area;

(b2) placing the second summary field in the summaries area; and

(b3) placing the fields in the list of fields in the body area.

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~~31.~~ A computer readable medium including computer program code for creating a report layout for data stored in a database, said computer readable medium comprising:

25 computer program code for performing an interview sequence to obtain organization information, the organization information including at least a list of fields, the report layout including a plurality of parts including a header area, a grand total area, a summary area, a body area, and a footer area; and

computer program code for creating the report layout based on the interview sequence, the creating of the report layout includes placing the fields in the list of fields in the body area.

5 32. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the organization information further includes header or footer information for the layout or report, the header or footer information including at least one of a logo and custom text.

10 33. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the organization information further includes a category that identifies the field on which the report layout is organized.

15 34. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the organization information further includes a plurality of categories that are ordered, and the categories identify the fields and a hierarchy on which the report layout is organized.

20 35. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein said computer readable medium further comprises:

(c) automatically creating a script to run the report layout based on the interview sequence.

25 36. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the organizational information further includes at least one summary field for the report layout, the at least one summary field being associated with one of the fields in the list of fields, and

wherein said computer program code for creating the report layout comprises: computer program code for placing the summary field in at least one

of the grand total area and the summary area and placing the fields in the list of fields in the body area.

37. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 36, wherein the
5 summary field is a subtotal or a grand total of the data in the associated fields.

38. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 37, wherein the
summary field provides one of a total, count, average, minimum, and maximum
of the data for the field associated with the summary field.

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